

Washington, DC – Today, the full Veterans' Affairs Committee unanimously passed Congressman Bruce Braley's bill, the Andrew Connolly Veterans' Housing Act. This bipartisan bill will extend a grant program to help injured and disabled veterans retrofit their homes after they return from combat. The bill will likely proceed to the House Floor as part of a legislative package.

"For many young men and women who return from combat with severe life-altering injuries, the fight is far from over," said Rep. Braley. "Veterans like Andrew return to a completely new life – with new, special needs. We must ensure that they have the support they need to adjust to their new lives, reach their full potential, and feel comfortable in their homes."

The Andrew Connolly Veterans' Housing Act is named after Andrew Connolly of Dubuque – a constituent of Rep. Braley's who returned from Iraq with a tumor in his spine and is now restricted to a wheelchair. With Rep. Braley's help, Connolly was able to get a grant and move into a home that allowed him to get around in a wheelchair.

Last week, Connolly testified on veterans' housing grant programs in front of Rep. Braley's Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

A video of Connolly's testimony is available here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3haDUPFAPvo>

A video of Rep. Braley's commentary is available here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYKuJ-BRqdE>

Both files are available to be downloaded here: <http://dl.dropbox.com/u/21501138/Braley-Connolly-Video.zip>

High-resolution photos from Connolly's testimony are available here: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/repbraley/5684184385/in/set-72157626640156192/>

